

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

When Mr. Donald McPherson first consented to the use of his name as a candidate for Collector of Railroad Taxes in the Western District, we expressed ourselves very decidedly and warmly in favor of his election. We spoke the more feelingly upon the subject for the reason that he had been connected with the Journal office for many years, and we were fully aware that he possessed unusual qualifications for the place, and that he would faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of the office. He was elected by the people by a very handsome majority; and he has, in all respects, redeemed the promise which we made for him. No collector of taxes has ever shown more devotion to the interests of the city than he. He has not only paid the taxes, but he has also paid the claims of tax-payers than Mr. McPherson. He is now a candidate for re-election, and the citizens of his district could do no better than to retain him in a position the duties of which he is so well qualified to discharge.

DAY OF Fasting and Prayer.—We publish this morning the proclamation of President Lincoln, designating Thursday, the 30th inst., as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer. We hope the whole country will unite in the solemn observance, and bend their knees before the throne of Almighty God, imploring him to avert our national calamities, restore peace to our land, re-establish the old ties of fraternal affection, and rekindle the fires of devotion upon the altars of patriotism.

THE YAZOO RIVER.—As interest now centres on this river, in connection with the operations against Vicksburg, and the flight of gunboats has crossed the swamps and bayous above that city, penetrating to Deer Creek, which is a crooked stream, or bayou, of the Mississippi swampy near Prentiss and Napoleon to the Yazoo river, not far above Vicksburg, it is necessary for a thorough understanding of these various expeditions to know the general character of the country. The New York Journal of Commerce says the Mississippi, from Cairo to the Gulf runs through a succession of vast swamps and low lands liable to inundation. The land everywhere slopes away from the bank of the Mississippi for many miles. From Cairo to Helena the river runs near the eastern edge of the swamps, which extend from twenty to thirty miles away west of the river. Near Helena the river traverses the line of swamps, and thence to Vicksburg it runs nearer the western side, and again extends off to the eastward. The Yazoo river runs through the eastern part of these swamps. Formerly the Mississippi, at high water, discharged some of its surplus floods into the swamps opposite Helena, and this discharge ran through the Yazoo Pass into the Coldwater, and thence to the Tallahatchie, then into the Yazoo, and thence back into the Mississippi just above the mouth of the Yazoo, thus traversing, by crooked and bendy distances more than four hundred miles, until it returned into the main stream. A levee was built forbidding this flow of water into the Yazoo Pass and Moon Lake, and the growth of trees closed over the old pass. Through this the Yazoo Pass expedition has forced its way. Below this point there were similar divisions of the current of the river at various points. The whole country, between the Mississippi and the line of the Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo is known as the Yazoo Bottom. It includes, according to the admirable report of Capt. Humphreys and Lieut. Abbott, 18,935 square miles of land. Of this, 6,800 are bottom lands liable to be submerged, 6,740 are lands draining into the bottom, and 5,395 are ridges of high land. The entire Yazoo Bottom is about 200 miles in length from north to south, and less than 80 in breadth at the widest point, near Greenwood. But the rivers which inclose it, the Mississippi on the west, and the Yazoo and tributaries on the east, leave vast tracts more than 200 miles long, and from 10 to 20 miles wide, and separated, ten miles below Helena, and their reunion at Vicksburg. By the Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo, it is 500 miles from Horn Lake to Vicksburg, and from the Yazoo Pass about 50 miles less. The Yazoo is always navigable for steamers up to Greenwood, which is 240 miles from the mouth. One ridge of high land runs north and south through part of the Yazoo Bottom, and extends into Moon Lake to a point twenty miles below Greenwood. The village of McNut is on this ridge. Below and west of this ridge the swamps sometimes change to ridges, and streams like Steele's Bayou, Dogue Lake, and a dozen others wind tortuous and sluggish courses through the desolation. When, as now, the Mississippi is in flood, drawing but a few feet of water may carry their way in all directions through the swamps, where the trees will allow; and taking advantage of this fact, a second expedition has suddenly penetrated the morasses and emerged in the Yazoo River not many miles above Vicksburg. But we are informed that this expedition, instead of penetrating into the Yazoo, has been forced to return to the Yazoo, and the fortifications of Vicksburg on the Yazoo, has been taken toward Yazoo City. If so the intention is to cooperate with the Yazoo Pass expedition in reducing to Union possession the whole line of the Yazoo River. As we have already remarked that the Yazoo River runs on the west side of the swamps, it will be seen that the possession of the river would give us an opening to place on the high lands of Mississippi, forces which can march down to the Blackwater and cut off the eastern railway communications of Vicksburg.

The great American war opens constantly new ideas in regard to military operations. This penetrating of vast swamps, with ironed gunboats, and a fleet of gunboats, and a fleet of gunboats, is something novel and astonishing. There is a boldness about it which is startling. The American soldier, lying on the Mississippi in his boats, sees the current flowing between the high levees, and looks over the embankment into the dark cypress swamps which stretch away unexplored toward rivers in the interior. He hears the bark, following the flood, heads his boat for the rushing current, is off on a new track into the morasses of the Mississippi, and, pushing on through swamp and bayou and lake and creek, emerges on the Yazoo in full panoply of war.

AMERICANS ABROAD.—The following are the names of Americans registered at Gun & Co.'s American News, 19 Crown Street, London, during the fortnight ending the 14th of March, 1863: Lyman Olmstead, New York; E. S. Monroe, do; G. A. Townsend, Philadelphia; S. T. Leman, Richmond, Va.; C. B. Brooks, St. John, New York; G. C. Beech, do; T. Rawlings, do; W. J. Emerson, San Francisco; A. M. Bailey, New York; H. Billings, Boston; E. A. Vernon, Virginia; Josiah J. White, Newton, Mass.; James E. Wilson, Buffalo, N. Y.; G. Taylor and Lady, Connecticut; T. Thayer, Mass.; S. Martin, New York; John J. Howell, Philadelphia; J. P. Brown, do; L. Fletcher, California; F. Woodward, do; W. P. Page, New York; D. B. Page, do; Geo. Parsons, Wilmington.

Governor Morton has secured the payment of ninety thousand dollars due to the State of Indiana for ammunition and other advances to the General Government, which will enable him to carry on the State Government despite the refusal of the Legislature to make any appropriations.

THE GREAT AMERICAN REMEDIES

HELMHOLD'S
Genuine Preparations.
HELMHOLD'S KATRACT-BUCHU,
HELMHOLD'S KATRACT-SARSAPARILLA,
HELMHOLD'S IMPROVED ROSE WASH.

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